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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/007,021

11/05/2001

Richard P. Welty

270-3038-U

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06/18/2004

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EXAMINER

PIZIALI, ANDREW T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1771

DATE MAILED: 06/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/007,021

Applicant(s)

WELTY ET AL.

Examiner

Andrew T. Piziali

Art Unit

1771

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-54 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-54 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. The amendment filed on 2/10/2004 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 28 and 29 recite the limitation "said substrate", but claim 22 does not mention a substrate. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 22-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by USPN 5,879,532 to Foster et al. (hereinafter referred to as Foster).

Regarding claims 22-54, Foster discloses an article having on at least a portion of a surface a coating, said article comprising a substrate, a nickel layer, a strike layer consisting essentially of zirconium, titanium or zirconium-titanium alloy directly contacting the nickel

Art Unit: 1771

layer, and an outer later consisting essentially of zirconium compound, titanium compound, or zirconium-titanium alloy compound directly contacting the strike layer, and the outer layer is uncoated (see entire document including column 1, lines 10-24, column 3, lines 55-63, and column 6, line 42 through column 7, line 11).

Regarding claims 23-27, 33-37, 44, 46, 48 and 52, Foster discloses that the compound may be a carbide, oxide, nitride, or a carbonitride (column 6, line 65 through column 7, line 11).

Regarding claims 28-29, 32-41 and 48-54, Foster discloses that the substrate may be aluminum or zinc (column 3, lines 55-63).

Regarding claims 30, 32-41 and 48-54, Foster discloses that the strike layer may have a thickness between 0.25 millionths of an inch and 50 millionths of an inch (column 8, lines 22-33).

Regarding claim 31 and 40, Foster discloses that the outer layer may have a thickness between about 2 millionths of an inch and about 30 millionths of an inch (column 8, lines 53-65).

Regarding claims 38 and 42, Foster discloses that the article may be a faucet (column 1, lines 10-24).

Regarding claims 39 and 43, Foster discloses that the article may be a doorknob (claim 56).

6. Claims 39 and 43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over USPN 5,879,532 to Foster as applied to claims 22-54 above, and further in view of USPN 5,759,677 to Fink.

Fink discloses that faucet coatings may be used for doorknobs (column 1, lines 7-17). It

Art Unit: 1771

would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the substrate a doorknob, as disclosed by Fink, because a doorknob is a piece of door hardware that requires corrosion resistance and a desired color.

Response to Arguments

7. Applicant's arguments have been considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

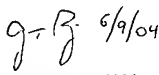
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrew T Piziali whose telephone number is (571) 272-1541. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571) 272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

atp


ANDREW T. PIZIALI
PATENT EXAMINER


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